

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. - 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A process for reclaiming spent selenium filter mass comprised of an inert material, residual selenium active substance and mercury selenide, said process comprising:

treating the spent selenium filter mass with a hydrogen peroxide solution for leaching out the selenium content in essentially all of the residual selenium active substance so as to form selenious acid and treated spent selenium filter mass;

separating the selenious acid from the treated spent selenium filter mass;

contacting the treated spent selenium filter mass with aqua regia solution, thereby for dissolving essentially all the mercury selenide and producing a treated spent mercury selenide-depleted filter mass;

separating the aqua regia solution containing with the dissolved mercury selenide from the treated spent mercury selenide-depleted filter mass; and

precipitating ~~and separating~~ the mercury in disposable form from the aqua regia solution containing the dissolved mercury selenide to produce a mercury-depleted aqua regia solution, and

separating the precipitated mercury from the mercury-depleted aqua regia solution.

7. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 6, wherein the precipitating the mercury in disposable form from the aqua regia solution containing the dissolved mercury selenide ~~is treated to adjust~~ comprises adjusting the pH of the aqua regia solution containing the dissolved mercury selenide, thereby precipitating whereby elemental selenium and the precipitated elemental selenium is separated and used and further comprising using the precipitated elemental selenium to prepare new selenium filter mass.

8. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 7, wherein the adjusting of the pH treatment of the aqua regia solution containing the dissolved mercury selenide ~~to adjust the pH~~ is carried out at an elevated temperature.

9. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 6, wherein the precipitating the mercury in disposable form from ~~treatment of the aqua regia solution containing the dissolved mercury selenide to adjust~~ comprises adjusting the pH is carried out of the aqua regia solution at an elevated temperature.

10. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 9, wherein further comprising: washing and drying the treated spent mercury selenide-depleted filter mass separated after separating it from the aqua regia solution, and which comprises inert carrier material is washed and dried and used  
using the washed and dried filter mass to prepare new selenium filter mass.

11. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 8, wherein further comprising:  
washing and drying the treated spent mercury selenide-depleted filter mass  
separated from the aqua regia solution, ~~and which comprises inert carrier material is~~  
~~washed and dried and used~~  
using the washed and dried filter mass to prepare new selenium filter mass.

12. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 7, wherein further comprising:  
washing and drying the treated spent mercury selenide-depleted filter mass  
separated from the aqua regia solution, ~~and which comprises inert carrier material is~~  
~~washed and dried and used~~  
using the washed and dried filter mass to prepare new selenium filter mass.

13. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 6, wherein further comprising:  
washing and drying the treated spent mercury selenide-depleted filter mass  
separated from the aqua regia solution, ~~and which comprises inert carrier material is~~  
~~washed and dried and used~~  
using the washed and dried filter mass to prepare new selenium filter mass.

14. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 13, wherein further  
comprising:  
using the selenious acid separated from the treated spent selenium filter mass  
~~formed by the treatment with the hydrogen peroxide solution is used~~ to prepare new  
selenium filter mass.

15. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 12, wherein further comprising:

using the selenious acid separated from the treated spent selenium filter mass  
~~formed by the treatment with the hydrogen peroxide solution is used to prepare new~~  
selenium filter mass.

16. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 11, wherein further comprising:

using the selenious acid separated from the treated spent selenium filter mass  
~~formed by the treatment with the hydrogen peroxide solution is used to prepare new~~  
selenium filter mass.

17. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 10, wherein further comprising:

using the selenious acid separated from the treated spent selenium filter mass  
~~formed by the treatment with the hydrogen peroxide solution is used to prepare new~~  
selenium filter mass.

18. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 9, wherein further comprising:

using the selenious acid separated from the treated spent selenium filter mass  
~~formed by the treatment with the hydrogen peroxide solution is used to prepare new~~  
selenium filter mass.

19. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 8, wherein further comprising:  
using the selenious acid separated from the treated spent selenium filter mass  
~~formed by the treatment with the hydrogen peroxide solution is used to prepare new~~  
selenium filter mass.

20. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 7, wherein further comprising:  
using the selenious acid separated from the treated spent selenium filter mass  
~~formed by the treatment with the hydrogen peroxide solution is used to prepare new~~  
selenium filter mass.

21. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 6, wherein further comprising:  
using the selenious acid separated from the treated spent selenium filter mass  
~~formed by the treatment with the hydrogen peroxide solution is used to prepare new~~  
selenium filter mass.

22. (New) The process of claim 6, wherein the disposable form of mercury is  
HgSe.

23. (New) The process of claim 6, wherein the disposable form of mercury is  
HgS.

24. (New) The process of claim 23, wherein the HgS is formed by adding  
sulphide to the aqua regia solution.

25. (New) The process of claim 24, wherein the sulphide comprises sodium sulphide.

26. (New) The process of claim 24, wherein the sulphide is added to a partially neutralized aqua regia solution.

27. (New) The process of claim 6, further comprising adding  $\text{SO}_2$  to the aqua regia solution containing the dissolved mercury selenide, precipitating elemental selenium, and separating the precipitated elemental selenium from the aqua regia solution the dissolved mercury selenide..